

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT (January 2000 to August 2001)

“Promoting human rights by protecting those who defend them.”

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada:

- I. Campaigns for lawyers whose rights, freedoms or independence are threatened as a result of their advocacy.
- II. Produces legal analyses of national and international laws and standards relevant to human rights abuses against lawyers and other human rights defenders.
- III. Works in cooperation with other human rights organizations.¹

ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST YEAR

I. CAMPAIGNS

A. TRIAL OBSERVATION AND LAWYER SUPPORT

1. KARPAL SINGH CAMPAIGN - MALAYSIA

David Gibbons Q.C. and Richard Fowler were scheduled to attend Mr. Singh's trial both in July 2000 and May 2001, but the trial was adjourned. LRWC believes that the attendance of LRWC observers and their intention to hold a watching brief on behalf of LRWC was a factor in the trial being adjourned and in diminishing enthusiasm for the prosecution.

LRWC's campaign on behalf of Karpal Singh has, to date, been successful in three key respects:

- a) Mr. Singh remains free on bail. The expected presence in court of David Gibbons Q.C. and Richard Fowler to either monitor or hold a watching brief of the trial has contributed to increasing reluctance to proceed and, we assume, to the adjournments from July 18/00 to May/01 and now to October 18-31/01.
- b) LRWC's article, "Lawyers and the Rule of Law on Trial: Sedition in Malaysia" was useful to Mr. Singh and well received by NGOs critical of the prosecution of Mr. Singh.
- c) LRWC has cooperated and shared information with a number of other organizations including the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC), the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and the International Bar Association (IBA). Michael Birnbaum Q.C. and James Laddie of the BHRC produced a comprehensive article on the sedition charge. Representatives from ICJ, BHRC and the IBA were scheduled to attend Mr. Singh's May 2001 trial.

¹ See Appendix for full text of Objects of Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada.

2. GERARDI TRIAL CAMPAIGN - GUATEMALA

James Tate attended the final week of the trial of those charged with the murder of Bishop Gerardi in Guatemala City from June 3 to 9, 2001. LRWC's purpose in sending a representative was to support lawyers and judges under severe threats to their lives.

The Gerardi trial was the trial of four people charged with the murder of Bishop Gerardi, founder and former director of ODHAG. Three people were found guilty of the 'extra-judicial execution' of Bishop Gerardi and sentenced to 30 years in prison each:

- a) Colonel Byron Lima Estrada
- b) Captain Byron Lima Oliva, who also received two years for falsification of documents and
- c) Jose Obdulio Villanueva

Priest Mario Orantes was found guilty of being an accomplice to the murder and sentenced to 20 years. James also met with lawyers, judges, diplomats and human rights activists. James was in Guatemala on June 6, the day CALDH (Centro para Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos) filed a lawsuit accusing General Efraín Ríos Montt of genocide in the massacre of 1000 people during the Guatemala civil war period. General Efraín Ríos Montt ruled Guatemala from March 1982 to August 1983 and is now Secretary General of the ruling Republican Front Party. Amnesty International issued an alert fearing for the safety of members of CALDH. An Amnesty observer was attacked in her hotel shortly after James left Guatemala. James was in Guatemala at a critical but dangerous time.

LRWC issued a statement in response to the trial and verdict on June 12/01. James' written report and recommendations will be circulated to members of the Spanish Speaking Committee and others who request a copy. The trial background and LRWC statement are also available. The Spanish Speaking Committee is meeting to plan further LRWC involvement in Guatemala.

3. JEYARETNAM CAMPAIGN – SINGAPORE

Howard Rubin representing both Amnesty International and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada attended July 20 to 27, 2001 in Singapore to monitor two Court of Appeal hearings involving defamation and bankruptcy of J. B. Jeyaretnam, lawyer and parliamentarian.

Howard Rubin also met with Doreen Steidle Canadian High Commissioner to Singapore and with lawyers, politicians and former Internal Security Act detainees.

B. LETTERS FOR LAWYERS

LRWC receives information about lawyers in danger from Amnesty International, The Observatoire, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Servicio Paz y Justicia, The Social Justice Committee of Montreal, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, Centre for Social and Legal Studies (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)), the Centre for Justice and International Rights (Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL), and Global Exchange.

LRWC responds to some of the appeals received by writing letters. LRWC has recently started preparing research backgrounders on specific appeals to improve the quality and efficacy of the letters. Committee members who have written letters: Sarah Khan, Gail Davidson, Nerys Poole, Brenda Wemp, Constance Marlatt, Susan Coristine.

A summary of letters written in the reporting period follows.

1. ARGENTINA

- Dr. Roberto Coria of Los Juicios por la Verdad
- Dr. Lindolfo Bertinat
- Dr. Vildor Garavelli
- Mathilde Bruera
- Daniel Luna all of Rosario Sante Fé

Reports were received from two Argentine Human Rights organizations, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales and Servicio Paz y Justicia, that a number of lawyers in Rosario have been the subject of letter bombs, office break-ins threats and assaults. Many of them are directors of human rights organizations, and all of them involved in the investigation of disappearances that occurred during the dirty war period. LRWC wrote to the governor of Sante Fé and reminded him of Argentina's obligations to take immediate steps to ensure that these lawyers be allowed to continue their investigations free from risk of harm.

➤ **Carlos Varela, Alejandro Acosta and Diego Lavado**

These lawyers act for the families of three young men, two of whom disappeared after going to meet with the police and one of whom was killed after being left in the care of the police during a school trip. Since taking these cases their offices have been broken into twice and defamatory statements made about them in the media. LRWC wrote reminding Argentina of its obligation to ensure that lawyers are able to practice their profession free from threats and other interference.

➤ **Mathilde Bruera and Daniel Luna**

Reports from Argentina were that these lawyers, after becoming involved as lawyers investigating disappearances that occurred during the dirty war period were subjected to letter bombs, office break-ins, threats and assaults. An Argentine Judge (Gabriel Cavallo) in March declared the impunity and amnesty laws covering this period to be unconstitutional. LRWC wrote in support of these lawyers.

➤ **Mariano Mansilla, lawyer**

LRWC received a report from the Observatory in Geneva that the High Court of Neuquen province has asked the local Bar Association to issue sanctions against Mariano Mansilla, which could prevent him from practicing law. Mr. Mansillo, a founding member of Comité de Acción Jurídica de Argentina (CAJ-Argentine Committee for Legal Action), had, prior to the court's action, denounced Argentina's policy of discrimination against Mapuches (for whom Mr. Mansillo acts) as a violation of both the Argentine Constitution and the Covenant on Social and Economic Rights. Mr. Mansillo is reported to have voiced these criticisms in Geneva and to an Argentine newspaper.

➤ **Maria Dolores Gómez**

LRWC received information from the Argentine human rights group, Centre for Social and Legal Studies (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)) and the Centre for Justice and International Rights (Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL)), that an application had been made to the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights asking the Commission to request that the government of Argentina provide and maintain adequate protection for lawyer Maria Dolores Gómez and her family, and investigate the threats against her and prosecute those believed to be responsible. Maria Dolores Gómez has been active in bringing habeas corpus applications to release wrongfully detained persons. She has been physically attacked and has received numerous threats against herself and her family for her work in this area. Nerys Poole is writing to urge the government to implement these measures.

2. BOLIVIA

➤ **Waldo Albarracin**

Waldo Albarracin, lawyer and President of the Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly (APDH), received death threats on February 22nd and 28th that are believed to have been made in response to his work with APDH. APDH recently provided Spanish judge Baltazar Garzon with documents implicating the President of Bolivia, Hugo Banzer, in Operation Condor the government program during 1971-78 to eliminate political opponents. Mr. Albarracin was kidnapped and tortured in 1997. The Chamber of Deputies identified six government officials as responsible for the kidnapping and torture including the Chief of Police and a Prosecutor and none of these people have been prosecuted. LRWC wrote asking the Bolivian government to take immediate steps to protect Dr. Albarracin, his family and colleagues, to investigate the death threats and to prosecute the perpetrators.

3. BRAZIL

- **Gustavo dos Reis Gazzola,**
- **Roberto de Campos Andrade**
- **Thomas Mohuyico Yabiku, all prosecutors**

Each of these prosecutors received death threats believed to be motivated by their involvement in the investigation and prosecution of 26 prison guards and police officers under an anti-torture law adopted in 1997. [AI Index: AMR 19/003/2001]

4. BURMA

- **U Cheng Po**

Lawyer Cheng Po was arrested in July, charged with distributing foreign news articles, convicted by a court convened in Insein prison and sentenced September 13 to two consecutive 7 year sentences [information source: IFEX via AI's Burma coordinator for Canada]. LRWC wrote a letter to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (formerly SLORC). U Peng Po was subsequently released.

5. COLUMBIA

- **Jorge Betancur Echeverri, Prosecutor**
- **Jairo Carvajal Pérez, Judicial Secretary**
- **Dora Muñoz Pérez, Judge**

These people were abducted at gunpoint on November 27, 2000. [Amnesty International Index AMR 23/99/00] LRWC wrote urging the Colombian government to act to protect the lives of these people, investigate their disappearance and prosecute those responsible. The Colombian Commission of Jurists has reported that during 1999, 102 judges and lawyers were targets of violence, 8 lawyers were murdered and that 80% of this violence was carried out by paramilitaries with the involvement of the security forces.

- **Dr. Alirio Uribe Muñoz, lawyer and member of Corporación Colectivo de Abogados 'Jose Alvear Restrepo'**

Amnesty International issued an alert on April 6/01 expressing concern that Dr. Uribe's life is in danger, reporting that Dr. Uribe, a human rights lawyer, has been named, along with trade unionist Wilson Borja Díaz as a target in three recently circulated death lists. An assassination attempt against Mr. Díaz has been linked, by a judicial investigation, to police and army officers. An LRWC letter, in Spanish, was sent to the Colombian government.

6. GUATEMALA

- **Mynor Melgar**

Mynor Melgar lawyer for the human rights organization, Oficina Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG) was threatened and his family held at gunpoint two days after Mr. Melgar announced plans by ODHAG to charge Efraim Ríos Montt, retired general and leader of Congress with genocide. [information source from Amnesty International Index: AMR34/001/2001] LRWC wrote to the government of Guatemala expressing concern for Mr. Melgar's safety and of the failure of the Guatemalan government to protect the lives and independence of lawyers. Subsequently LRWC met with Mr. Melgar in San Francisco and then sent a representative to attend the final days of the Gerardi trial.

- **Álvaro Hugo Martínez Pérez**

The Social Justice Committee of Montreal reported that on March 13th, 2001 a crowd of people murdered Judge Hugo Martínez Pérez after an unpopular ruling in a rape case. LRWC wrote to ask that this murder be investigated; that those who instigated this mob action be brought to justice; that the government take all necessary steps to ensure that no other judge or lawyer in Guatemala is physically harmed due to the performance of his or her duties.

➤ **Leopoldo Zeissig**

Leopoldo Zeissig, the prosecutor in the Gerardi case, was forced to flee from Guatemala after being threatened after the conviction of three army officers and a priest. LRWC issued a Spanish language press release to the Guatemalan press and wrote to government authorities urging, inter alia, protection for legal workers and the implementation of the security measures recommended by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

7. **HAITI**

➤ **Ossagnol Servil, Haïti.**

Mr. Servil, Justice of the Peace for the town of Maissade has been the subject of death threats, office break-ins and threatening demonstrations outside his office. All these occurred after Mr. Servil issued arrest warrants against two supporters of the town's mayor. Attempts to prosecute the perpetrators have been blocked by the mayor. LRWC wrote to President Aristide asking him to ensure the independence and security of judicial officers and to investigate any threats pursuant to the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

8. **KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

➤ **Normagan Arkabaev, Co-ordinator of Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights (KCHR)**

Normagan Arkabaev Co-ordinator of the Osh division of KCHR was arrested Jun 30 2001 after criticising the Director of the National Security Service in Osh with illegal appropriation of land. LRWC wrote asking that steps be taken to end the harassment of human rights workers. The Branch Head of the General Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Kyrgyz Republic replied LRWC is addressing the issues raised in the reply.

9. **MALAYSIA**

➤ **Zainur Zakaria**

Lawyer Zainur Zakaria was summarily convicted of 'contempt in the face of the court' in November 1998 and sentenced to 3 months in jail. As defense counsel for former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, he was bringing an application to have two of the prosecutors removed from the case on the grounds that they were alleged to have been involved in attempting to fabricate evidence against Anwar Ibrahim. In support of the application was filed the affidavit of Anwar to which was attached the statutory declaration of the lawyer to whom the prosecutors were alleged to have made their proposals. Mr. Zakaria was convicted and sentenced after being given 30 minutes to apologize. The Malaysian Federal Court set aside the conviction and sentence. LRWC wrote letters to the Malaysian Human Rights Commission urging the Commission to uphold the various principles relating to lawyers' advocacy rights by calling for an acquittal as an intervenor and to the Attorney General of Malaysia asking him, as chief law officer of Malaysia to order an investigation of the allegations of evidence fabrication.

10. **RWANDA**

➤ **Lusambo wa Karume**

Lawyer Karume was arrested August 3, 2000 in Gikongoro and subsequently transferred to Kigali and then to the Bukavu Hospital. He, along with six others are believed to be held by The Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie – Goma (RCD Goma) and to have been arrested with the cooperation of the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) [information source: Amnesty International]. LRWC wrote questioning the reasons for his arrest. Karume was subsequently found and released.

11. **SUDAN**

➤ **Mustafa Agdel Gadir, lawyer**

Mustafa Abdel Gadir who provides free counseling for prisoners of conscience and other victims of human rights violations and is the principal defense lawyer for six opposition leaders was scheduled to go to trial on June 11/01 on charges of disrupting national security. The intimidation of Mr. Gadir carried out by the Sudanese Security Forces on June 6/01, including Mr. Gadir's arrest and release, a four-hour interrogation, a

search of his office and the seizure of clients' documents appear to be linked to Mr. Gadir's work as a defence lawyer. Mr. Gadir has been arrested on three previous occasions and has spent two years in prison. LRWC wrote urging the Sudanese authorities to, inter alia, ensure the safety of Mr. Gadir.

12. TUNISIA

➤ **Souhayr Belhassen, Vice President of the Tunisian Human Rights League**

LRWC received information that on April 14, 2001 the Tunisian police assaulted Mrs. Belhassen and confiscated documents pertaining to her human rights work. The reported assault occurred at the airport as Mrs. Belhassen was returning from attending the Commission on Human Rights at the UN in Geneva and was believed to have been precipitated by her human rights work. LRWC wrote asking, inter alia, for an end to the systematic harassment of human rights workers in Tunisia and compliance with the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

13. UZBEKISTAN

➤ **Shovruk Ruzimuradov, Head of the Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan (HRSU)**

Mr. Ruzimuradov was arrested June 15 2001 and held incommunicado and his wife, daughter and sister were seriously beaten during a search without warrant of his residence the same day. LRWC wrote requesting Mr. Ruzimuradov's immediate release and an investigation into the assaults on his family and that further proceedings be carried out in accordance with internationally accepted legal procedures. LRWC also requested that the government take steps to ensure adequate security to human rights defenders.

II. PUBLICATIONS

A. LEGAL ANALYSES

Tami Friesen, Gail Davidson, and Michael Jackson, Q.C., researched and wrote an article, "Lawyers and the Rule of Law on Trial: Sedition in Malaysia" which will be published in the September 2001 edition of the Criminal Law Forum. This article was widely distributed including to Karpal Singh, human rights organizations and to the Attorney General of Malaysia.

B. PRESS RELEASES/PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- Malaysia/Karpal Singh press release (English language)
- Singapore/Jeyaretnam Amnesty International and Lawyers' Rights Watch joint News Release/Public Statement (English language)
- Guatemala/Gerardi trial press release (English language)
- Guatemala/Leopoldo Zeissig press release (Spanish language)

C. LRWC CAMPAIGN REPORTS

- Gerardi/Guatemala report by James Tate
- Jeyaretnam appeals/Singapore by Howard Rubin
- Global Exchange Awards by Nerys Poole
- Argentina trip by Gail Davidson

D. NEWSLETTERS

LRWC produced, for members, six newsletters during the reporting period.

III. LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING COOPERATION

- Sedition article:** LRWC shared information and research with Michael Birnbaum, QC, of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales.

- ❑ **Defamation Article:** LRWC is in communication with Amnesty International, Article 19 and the International Parliamentary Union with respect to this paper.
- ❑ **Law Schools:** LRWC intends to set up a research relationship with a number of law schools whereby students will get credit for directed research done for LRWC research projects. Once some of these relationships are in place, LRWC's ability to produce research papers will be greatly enhanced

IV. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- ❑ **Argentina:** Gail Davidson traveled to Argentina (December 2000) to meet with lawyers and others working on human rights issues and to establish contacts that will enable LRWC to better support lawyers in Argentina and eventually in other South American countries. Contacts was made with lawyers and human rights workers from the following groups: Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Centro de Investigaciones Sociales y Asesorias Legales Populares (CISLAP), Servicio Paz y Justicia (Serpaj) and the Asociacion por los Derechos Civiles. The responses were both enthusiastic and reserved: enthusiastic to form links with Canadian lawyers dedicated to supporting human rights defenders and reserved at knowing just how well such north-south, English-Spanish links would operate. All groups offered to send LRWC information about lawyers in danger with the proviso that the information would be in Spanish. All were willing to provide such follow-up details as they were able to. LRWC has since received information from CELS, Serpaj and CISLAP.
- ❑ **United Kingdom:** Gail Davidson attended a course on the International Criminal Court at the Irish Human Rights Centre, University of Ireland at Galway in July 2000. In London England Gail met with people from the International Bar Association, Article 19, Interights, Amnesty International and the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales for the purpose of establishing LRWC contacts.
- ❑ **San Francisco Global Exchange Awards Ceremony:** Nerys Poole, chair of the Spanish Speaking Committee attended the Global Exchange Awards ceremony in San Francisco May 8/01. Nerys went to San Francisco with the dual purpose of meeting with Guatemalan lawyer Mynor Melgar, Coordinator of the Legal Office of the Guatemalan Archbishop's Office for Human Rights (ODHAG) and one of the prosecutors on the Gerardi case and introducing LRWC to U.S. based NGOs concerned with Guatemalan human rights issues. (see January and March 2001 Newsletters for information of death threats to Mynor Melgar and others involved in the Gerardi trial) Nerys met with Mynor Melgar, Global Exchange members and staff lawyers from the Centre for Justice and Accountability. Nerys' recommended that LRWC send a representative to the Gerardi trial and establish contacts with lawyers and judges and human rights associations in Guatemala. Nerys' report is available.
- ❑ **International Criminal Court:** LRWC became a member of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court. Plans to send two members to the 8th Session of the Preparatory Commission were cancelled because of lack of money for travel expenses.

IN OTHER NEWS

A. MEMBERSHIP AND INCORPORATION

LRWC membership has grown to 100 Canadian lawyers residing in B.C. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New York, Hong Kong Hungary and Ireland.

BOARD of DIRECTORS: Gail Davidson, Michael Jackson Q.C., Sarah Khan, Stephen Owen Q.C.M.P. and Howard Rubin.

LRWC is incorporating a 'sister' society that will be eligible for a charitable tax number.

B. WEBSITE

The Website Committee has completed a first draft of the website which can be viewed at www.lrwc.org. The website includes general information about LRWC, detailed information regarding individual campaigns, publications and press releases as well as a host of links to websites of interest. When it is completed, the website will greatly increase LRWC's profile and ability to communicate with members, other organizations and members of the public throughout the world.

To date all of the work that has gone into developing the website has been carried out by volunteers. We are optimistic that LRWC will be able to raise resources that will allow us to expand the features available on the website to allow us to take full advantage of the tremendous potential that the internet holds for the organization and its work.

LRWC goal is to make the website as good as LRWC's performance and work.

LRWC encourages members to visit the website frequently and to provide suggestions for improvement.

C. OFFICE MANAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS

The response of non-lawyers wanting to do volunteer work for LRWC literally been overwhelming. Work done by volunteers has included: typing, website creation, research, data base creation, filing, writing and research. There is more volunteer time available to LRWC than time to organize and space allows at present. As LRWC operates out of a director's home working space for volunteers is limited. Other donations received this reporting year include: photocopier, plane ticket, fax machine, computer and monitor and desk. LRWC's goal for the coming year is to rent an office and hire an office manager whose responsibilities would include:

- Organizing office and research volunteers to take care of the flow of correspondence and communications;
- developing a communication plan and implementing distribution of press releases LRWC statements, LRWC articles, LRWC responses to situations involving violations of international advocacy rights, distribution of information and resources to volunteers and members;
- Coordinating Letters for Lawyers; and
- Coordinating follow-up during campaigns.

CURRENT GOALS, ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

I. CAMPAIGNS AND TRIAL MONITORING

A. SINGAPORE

Howard Rubin attended the appeals of lawyer/Member of Parliament J.B. Jeyaretnam in Singapore July 23 and 25, 2001 as the joint representative of Amnesty International and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada. LRWC and Amnesty International are still working on responses and follow-up to this observation.

B. MALAYSIA

Richard Gibbs Q.C. (First Vice President the Law Society of B. C.) will attend the trial from October 22 – 31, 2001. . In the event that Mr. Singh's trial is again adjourned, Richard will attend in Kuala Lumpur for the purpose of meeting with the Malaysian Bar Council officials and other Malaysian lawyers for the purpose of establishing a liaison between Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and Malaysian lawyers that will enable LRWC to work more effectively in ASEAN countries.

Goals for the coming year

1. To continue with the Karpal Singh Campaign; and

2. To begin the process of establishing a relationship with members of the Malaysian Bar and/or the Malaysian Bar Council that will enable LRWC to engage in joint projects and will improve LRWC's capacity to do advocacy work for advocates in South East Asia.

C. GUATEMALA

Goals for the coming year

1. To develop follow-up support initiatives for the lawyers and judges contacted; and
2. To encourage other Canadian organizations to provide support.

II. LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

A. DEFAMATION PAPER

Callum Kelly is researching and writing a paper on the use of defamation suits to stifle freedom of expression looking at Singapore and Malaysia as examples.

B. CONTEMPT

Members Gail Davidson and Tami Friesen are researching and writing a paper on contempt in the face of the court focusing on the Malaysian prosecution of defense lawyer Zainur Zakaria.

C. DUTY TO DEFEND

Gail Davidson is writing paper on the gap between states' duty to ensure the independence and security of lawyers and other legal workers and the implementation and enforcement of minimum standards

Goals for the coming year

- To set up research collaborations with at least two universities, one in Canada and one outside Canada;
- To produce two articles of interest to the development, implementation and enforcement of international advocacy rights standards;
- To contribute legal research to the 9th Session of the International Criminal Court Preparatory Commission.
- To distribute articles and get feedback from the lawyers for whom the articles were written and the human rights and institutional organizations to whom the articles were distributed;
- To continue to develop relationships with other organizations and to respond to their research needs when identifying research topics.

III. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Goals for the coming year

A. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

LRWC plans to contribute at the 9th Session of the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court at the United Nations to the development of standards and safeguards for lawyers appearing before the International Criminal Court.

B. DEFAMATION CONFERENCE

LRWC plans to participate in the defamation conference planned by Article 19 and the Inter Parliamentary Union.

C. LETTERS FOR LAWYERS

Goals for the Coming Year

- To continue developing a group of volunteer researchers to produce research on the human rights profile of countries in which the targeted lawyers practice:
- To enable lawyers to produce letters that contain the type of information one would expect from an informed legal expert which are informative and persuasive to the reader
- To create a body of knowledge about countries in which problems exist for both LRWC and member of the Letters for Lawyers Committee
- To involve non-lawyers in LRWC and in initiatives to implement and enforce international human rights standards,
- To improve the information and knowledge upon which decisions to mount larger campaigns and legal research projects are based.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY

LRWC's draft financial statement² for the period February 1, 2000 to August 31 2001 indicates:

Income from membership fees ³ and money donations ⁴	\$5,290.00
Paid Expenses	\$3,378.36
Cash Surplus before unpaid expenses	\$1,911.64
Unpaid Expenses (exclusive of long distance fax charges)	\$1,001.42
Net surplus	\$ 910.22

² This summary statement does not include donations of time by members and non members or members' payments of travel and research expenses. (Members paying travel expenses: G. Davidson, D. Gibbons, R. Fowler, N. Poole, H. Rubin, J. Tate)

³ Twenty-one members did not pay their fees

⁴ Money donations from members totaled \$1,525.(donations were received from: P. Cheema, S. Coristine, D. Crossin, D. Davidson, F. Gordon, P. Harrison, T. Holmes, M. Jackson, M. Jetté, S. Kelliher, J. McAlpine, D. Paterson, C. Ruby, K. Westlake, J. White, J. Ziskrout.)

Computer equipment and fax machine donated by J. Anderson.

APPENDIX

OBJECTS OF LRWC

LRWC is federally incorporated as a nonprofit society. The objects of the existing society are:

1. To provide support internationally to lawyers whose rights, freedoms, or independence are threatened as a result of their human rights advocacy
2. To promote and protect lawyers' right to engage in independent advocacy
3. To preserve and enhance the rule of law
4. To encourage governments and other institutions to respect fair trial rights including the rights of lawyer to engage in independent advocacy
5. To encourage ratification and implementation of international human rights treaties that impact on legal advocacy rights and the integrity of legal systems
6. To encourage constitutional and legislative amendments necessary for conformity with international human rights standards relevant to the independence of lawyers and judges, the integrity of the legal systems and fair trial rights
7. To provide research and public legal analyses with respect to the above
8. To complement the support to lawyers from other human rights organizations.

OBJECTS OF NEW SOCIETY

LRWC are in the process of incorporating a 'sister' society that will be eligible for charitable tax status. The draft objects of this society are:

1. To do legal research on jurisprudence, national laws and international laws and standards related to the integrity of legal systems and the right of lawyers and other human rights defenders to engage in independent advocacy
2. To make such research available to the public
3. To provide public legal education on the above topics